

**MURRAY PARKS AND RECREATION  
ADVISORY BOARD**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 12, 2010**

**Board Members in Attendance**

Lisa Nelson, Chair  
Morgan Selph, Vice Chair  
Dani Murakami  
Bob Vanbibber

**Excused:** Ted Eyre

**Staff**

Doug Hill

**Visitors**

Jessica Montgomery, The Valley Journal

The Parks & Recreation Board Meeting was called to order at 5:35pm by Chair, Lisa Nelson.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Morgan Selph made a motion to approve the March 10, 2010 board minutes as written. Bob Vanbibber seconded. Motion was unanimous.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

No citizens.

**REPORT ON FISCAL YEAR 2011 BUDGET**

Doug Hill reported on the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget. Doug said that the last time the board met in March, department budgets had just been submitted to the Mayor. Doug said that basically the budget that the Mayor submitted to the City Council was the same as last year for the Parks and Recreation Division with the exception of three items: 1) a server for the online registration system, 2) new treadmills, elliptical bikes, and exercise equipment for The Park Center, and 3) funds to repair an area in the Murray Park parking lot where a tree was removed to repair the asphalt, curb and gutter, and sidewalk.

Doug reported that the Council has had several meetings since they were presented the budget, and they have been reducing the Mayor's budget. Most of the reductions have been in areas like temporary employees, books and subscriptions, education and training, travel, professional services, postage, and advertising. These items have not been eliminated but have been reduced, i.e., advertising in the Murray Journal appeared six times per year. This budget has been cut about 30%; next year Parks and Recreation will only advertise four times per year.

The Council has not formally adopted the budget; they have until the first or second week in June. There will be a public hearing on May 25. There is still opportunity for public comment and further adjustments to the budget.

### **DISCUSS PROGRAM AND FACILITY FEES**

Doug handed out Budget Preparation Worksheets for Fiscal Year 2011 for the Parks and Recreation Division.

Doug reported that several years ago the staff and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board adopted a fee policy for recreation programs. The fee policy was that Parks and Recreation would cover 100% of direct costs through fees charged to participants for the programs. Direct costs would be temporary employee wages, public notices, postage, sporting equipment, awards, and recreation program officials. In reviewing the figures, the City Council said that the direct expenses are not being covered.

Doug said that he asked the recreation staff to look at all of the programs and recalculate what expenses are for the programs and then set the fee to cover 100% of the direct cost. In the handout was a list of all recreation programs and the associated fee, both current and a revised fee were applicable. Doug said that the recreation staff believes that with the revised fees an additional \$100,000 will be generated within the next year.

Doug asked the board if they were comfortable with covering direct costs. He reported that some on the Council felt more than the direct cost should be covered and others were comfortable with covering just the direct cost.

In reviewing the program price sheet, the board members asked some questions regarding some of the programs listed. Dani Murakami commented that most of the program fee increases were about \$5, and Lisa Nelson said that hopefully this wouldn't be so much that participants would choose not to participate.

Also included in the packet was the budget for The Park Center. The annual cost to operate and pay the debt service on The Park Center is almost \$2.2 million dollars. The debt service amount of this is almost \$800,000. This will be paid over the next 15 years. Minus the debt service cost, the annual operating cost of The Park Center is approximately \$1.5 million dollars; revenue is \$725,000. Doug reported that the Council would like to see more revenue generated.

A market analysis was done comparing other recreation facilities in the area. The fees are very hard to compare since there are many different fees and memberships offered from facility to facility. Doug felt that, across the board, The Park Center fees are not out of line with other community centers for membership or daily rates.

Doug said that he wanted the board to discuss the following items:

- 1) Increase membership fee by 15%
- 2) Increase daily admission fee by \$ .50
- 3) Charge children ages 2-3 a fee of \$2.00
- 4) Change senior definition to include age 55+
- 5) Increase fitness option fee and offer with one and three month memberships
- 6) Offer a two year membership at existing prices (incentive)
- 7) Limit the number of family members allowed on a family membership. Offer a family member add-on fee.
- 8) Charge children ages 2-3 a fee of \$2 to the outdoor pool

Generally, these fees would be in line with some centers and about \$ .50 higher than the two recreation centers closest to The Park Center.

Doug asked the board members if they were comfortable or not with the above suggestions. He said that there would be another meeting with specifics that the board members would be required to make a motion.

After some discussion of the items listed above, the following were board suggestions: 7) family would top out at 6 kids before there would be an add-on fee, 6) all board members liked the two year membership incentive, 5) everyone was in agreement, 4) board members did not like; go with 60 as definition of a senior, 3) everyone liked; under one year old free, 2) varying opinions of board members, 1) board members were not necessarily in agreement with this even though it appears to be a necessity; Morgan Selph felt that maybe there could be more marketing rather than an increase. He also felt that a Murray resident should be given a little more of an edge.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Doug reported that there may be some cuts on some of the special events, i.e., the Easter egg hunt, Halloween haunted trail, and the volunteer recognition dinner.

Also, Doug said that next week there would be a planning meeting on the Armory building. The initial meeting will be with City representatives and an architect with ASWN to put together a plan to move forward. After this initial meeting, there will be a public meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, June 9, 2010, in the Parks and Recreation conference room at 5:30pm.

